GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1250
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2007
DISTRIBUTION UNDER PDS
Vijay Krishna Shri

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a shortage of foodgrains under Public Distribution System (PDS) in some States whereas a surplus is present in other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for optimum and adequate distribution in all the States?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a), (b) & (c): The Government of India allocates foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) to States and Union Territories based on certain uniformly applicable norms. For making these allocations, procurement of foodgrains is done by Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State procurement agencies. FCI and State Government agencies store the procured quantities of foodgrains. As per the allocations, concerned State and UT Government lift the foodgrains from FCI godowns and godowns of States agencies. Movement of foodgrains from godowns of FCI and State agencies is planned and executed by them to ensure that the monthly allocations reach all the States and Union Territories in time. This is a continuous process which is monitored regularly.

Since procurement of rice and wheat takes place only in major rice and wheat producing States, more quantities of rice and wheat are stored in the storage facilities in those States. Therefore, at a particular point in time, the quantities of rice and wheat stored in major procurement States are more. They get moved as per requirement to the deficit States as per the allocations made. Since existence of higher quantities of rice and wheat in the procurement States are part of management of storage, it cannot be interpreted to mean that surplus or deficit of foodgrains are there in those States under TPDS.